

**Office: 44 South Beaver St.
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 654-5507**

**www.CrayYouth.org
www.ConfluenceCoffee.org**

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KAUFMAN VISITATION HOUSE DEDICATION

JUNE 23, 2021

On June 23, 2021 the Cray Visitation House was officially dedicated the "Kaufman Visitation House" in honor of the late, great Crayon, Jill Kaufman.

Cray was lucky to have 25 years of Jill Kaufman. She held many titles under the Cray umbrella. Jill made her mark as a houseparent, a property manager, a girls' group home supervisor, and a visitation/reintegration program supervisor.

Jill held love for every Cray youth that crossed her path, and she showed it in so many ways. Whether tough love, tender love or anything in between, her group home girls would say that Jill saw the best in them and never gave up on them. More importantly, she never allowed them to give up on themselves. Jill mentored, protected and inspired. Her no nonsense philosophy was exactly what was needed.

Jill encompassed everything Cray stands for and she was a force to be reckoned with. When you had Jill Kaufman on your team, you had it all.

This courageous, strong, loving, woman will always be in the hearts of those lucky enough to know her, work with her, and learn from her. Jill made this world a better place, and her legacy will live on because of who she was.



From the Director...



Well, hopefully we are getting on the other side of this horrible pandemic. Late spring and early summer have been beautiful! Not sure that the weather has been that different than previous years, but being able to see people's whole faces and interacting in person with others has been wonderful!! Being able to shake hands and hug folks has also been amazing!

Cray was fortunate to finish our year in a positive financial position, despite the costs associated with dealing with Covid 19. This is largely due to the incredible number of monetary donations by all of you who have supported us through these very difficult times. To all of you who aided us with your gifts of your time, talents, and treasure over the past year, I humbly thank you for your help!

This financial support has allowed Cray to grow our recently started "Family Needs Fund" for any issues that may arise outside of normal operations regarding Cray kids/families past and present. Remember "Once a Cray Kid, always a Cray Kid"

Cray has resumed all face to face services although most of what Cray does had never really shut down. Most notably, Cray was able to resume our Bowlathon, after a one year hiatus, live on May 22, 2021 which is our biggest fundraiser that supports our mentoring programming. More about the Bowlathon will be discussed in a separate article in this newsletter.

The recent loss of two incredible "Crayons" has really impacted the Cray Community. Ms. Jill Kaufman and Mr. Norman Moses will be sorely missed.

In closing, I ask you to continue to stay safe, get your vaccines and maybe we will not have to wear masks in our everyday life anymore! Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will talk to you in the Fall.

God Bless, Don Kemerer, Director



IN MEMORIAM

A Word about a Great Man who exemplified a True "Crayon"...

Mr. Norman Moses served as a Cray Board Member for more than 25 years and as Vice-President and President for better than a decade. Norm was an extremely passionate man who fought selflessly for those less fortunate in our community. Norm believed in doing what was right regardless of the personal barriers and would not quit until justice prevailed! Norm dedicated his career to people with various physical and mental disabilities. After his retirement, Norm remained involved in any cause that could make our community a better place for Everyone! Thank you sir for all you did in your service on the Cray Board and you will be sorely missed by the many folks impacted positively by your life! There is a special place in Heaven for you, Norm!

CRAY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES: WE MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR KIDS

CROSSROADS

The Crossroads Program has switched from after school hours to day program for the summer and we are excited to be able to have group activities and field trips again! On June 29 we had lunch and a game of kickball with many of the caseworkers from CYS participating. The kids as well as the adults had a great time cheering each other on. An outing to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium with the staff from CYS is planned for August. We are all looking forward to seeing the animals and making more wonderful memories. Hope you all are enjoying summer as much as we are.



Kickball All Stars!



CRAY EDUCATION CENTER

Four Million Dollars Earned!

Thirteen years, that is how long children are told to wake up get dressed and then dragged off to the bus stop. Kindergarten classes through 12th grade, one sixth of our life, these years are a sacrament all children in America are to experience. For most, the years simply role along without any major obstacles along the way, simply moving grade to grade. But for Cray's youth these years are filled with challenges that require support from loved ones and the occasional "Crayon".

This June, Cray's two education programs graduated eight seniors. In an amazingly successful year, Cray Education Center and Cray Challenges had eight of eight seniors meet all the requirements to earn that prized diploma! A piece of paper that only 86% of seniors in America earn. A piece of paper that opens doors to jobs, to schools and life experiences that otherwise they would not have offered. Don Kemerer once shared a statistic that a person with a diploma earns over \$500,000 more than a person without a diploma during their life. That statistic is still true. Ultimately, Cray's eight graduates will earn an extra four million dollars combined. We will take it and celebrate their day.

So, today we celebrate these Super Seniors, who woke up without a high school diploma but will go to bed with one. We celebrate their hard work, their effort and the people who supported them along the way. Never forget this day, for it is meaningful and memorable. They have earned this, celebrate.



Cray Mentoring Programs

1-to-1 Mentoring &

Compeer Youth Lawrence County

44 South Beaver Street

New Castle PA 16101

Phone: 724-654-5507

Fax: 724-654-5546

Email: Craymentor@gmail.com

1-to-1 / Compeer Youth Advisory Council Members

Chip Rickenbach: Chairperson

Chris Cunningham: Vice Chair

Don Hollerman: Treasurer

Jane Fobes

Miriam Gwin

Michelle Locke

Bernie Muckian

Ashley Carr

Michele Kelly –Thompson

Carla Krisuk

Vickie Thompson

1-to-1 / Compeer Staff

Director: Allisyn Wolfe

Case Worker: Samantha Dubetz

Currently Serving:

24 Volunteers and 45 Youth
Served

Bowl- A-Thon in the Twilight Zone Was a Huge Success!

When we were trying to decide what Bowl A Thon 2021 was going to look like, we knew it wouldn't be "typical". Our annual Bowl-A-Thon usually raises around \$22,000 to support our mentoring programs. Both 1-to-1 Mentoring and Compeer Youth are funded completely by grants and donations, so Bowl A Thon is extremely important. With plenty of safety measures in place, we still managed to have a lot of fun! It was so great to see our supporters, many of whom have been attending Bowl A Thon for years, back together again. With the support of this community, we raised over \$17,000!

We would like to thank our food sponsors **Pizza Joes, Sheetz, Walmart, and both Butler Avenue and Wilmington Rd. Giant Eagle.** We would also like to thank **D.A.L.R.T Inc., UPMC Jameson, and Jane Fobes** for your donation of door prizes!

We also had so many local businesses and organizations that sponsored the event. Some have been sponsoring for many years, and some were brand new! Thank you sponsors!

Treloar & Heisel

Michael Krisuk, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial

Mutual of America

AFSCME Local 2902

Preston Auto Group

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

Gwin Brothers Transport Inc.

Chiafullo Family Foundation

Flynn's Tires and Auto Service

New Castle Kiwanis

Packer - Thomas

UPMC Jameson and UPMC Horizons

GNC Community FCU

Central heating and Plumbing

East side Pharmacy

New Wilmington Kiwanis

AmeriPrise Financial - Eugene Gabriel

LCARC Precision FeedScrews

Capital A Investments

Maureen Chiafullo-Haid, Realtor

Luxenberg, Garbett, Kelly, and George

Finally, we would like to thank all the bowlers that masked up and joined us, and to those that donated and were there "in spirit".

More Mentoring News....



Congratulations to Sam, Cheyanne, and P.J. on your graduations! We are so proud of you!

Thank you to the Missions Committee and First Presbyterian Church! With your support, several of our mentors and kids will be attending workshops at the Hoyt this summer!

“First times” are a BIG deal when it comes to mentoring. Some recently experienced “firsts” included bowling, playing bocce ball, and getting a job!

High School Mentoring Programs will be back in the fall! Students ages 15-17 are encouraged to apply. They will need an application, two references, and an interview with our staff. High School Mentors will meet as a group with their elementary aged mentees in evening programming that is supervised by our staff! The first program we will be offering will be on Wednesday evenings in Neshannock Township. We hope to start programming in early October and conclude mid-May. Grab some friends and get your community service hours for school in a really fun way!

Doll House Raffle coming soon! This hand-crafted, one of a kind doll house was a true labor of love from one of our talented board members. The house will be on display at the Confluence as soon as the tickets are printed and ready to sell! Only 500 tickets will be sold for \$5.00 each! Watch our Facebook page for updates!



SUMMER WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING



The summer is well underway as we jumped in with an Independent Living Cookout! We celebrated our ten graduates with barbecue and fun by the pool alongside their friends and families. The graduates received luggage and laptops as they head off to college, trade school, or the work force. The IL cookout kicked off our summer that is full of activities! We have a big event July 30th in which the youth's caseworkers and attorneys have been invited to join us at a low ropes challenge course. We are looking forward to a time of team building between our youth and their workers.

The fun doesn't stop at the ropes course! As restrictions are lifting, our staff has put together smaller events that will bring our kids together again. Events like horse-back riding, paddle boarding, and trips to Pittsburgh are all underway. We look forward to using these events to teach the kids important life skills and give them positive experiences as they transition into adulthood. Additionally, our staff is overjoyed to resume Life Skills Classes in person. Our youth have the opportunity to learn from the Fire and Police Department about safety as well as learn about available supports through Drug and Alcohol, Adagio Health Network, and the Crisis Shelter. Some great news is that we are able to do college tours again! College visits have already begun with Thiel College and colleges such as La Roche, Westminster, and Slippery Rock are coming down the pike. Overall, our summer is packed with opportunities to connect with our youth and send them into adulthood knowing they have our support at Cray Youth and Family Services.

"Team" Independent Living:

After what has seemed like an eternity, the Independent Living Department is now fully staffed! Please join me in welcoming Rebecca Ray, Felicia Olinger and Milly Myers. Having served approximately 90 youth so far this year, the additional staff and their blend of talents are a welcomed addition to the team. Welcome to Cray and IL!





Planning a party? **The Confluence** is a great place for gatherings large & small. Manager Patty McCann offers custom catering designed to satisfy your personal tastes. Private parties can be scheduled for any day of the week (even outside of our regular business hours). Enjoy a private room for up to 85 people or book the entire café and enjoy the comfort of our main dining area. Call now to reserve your date: (724) 698-7604.

JOIN US

Fri. Aug. 6th
7-10:30 for a
night of
Karaoke!



The Confluence is located in down-town New Castle, PA .

214 E Wasington Street

Free Parking Across the street!

COMEDY CLUB RETURNS!



Live Comedy Club show by Slapstick Productions.

Coming to the Confluence on September 25th! Doors open at 6pm

Call to Reserve Tickets or a table.

THE CONFLUENCE: NEW CASTLE'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SPOT

MUSIC
LIVE
THURSDAYS
6—8:30 PM



Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc.
44 South Beaver Street
New Castle, PA 16101

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New Castle, PA
Permit #5

Return Service Requested

BE A SUPERMAN TODAY AND HELP MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR KIDS

As Cray transforms for the future to meet the growing challenges that face kids and families in Lawrence County, we need your help! Please consider a donation to Cray.



YES, please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Please designate my contribution to assist:

_____ 1-to-1 Mentoring _____ Where Most Needed

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to Cray Youth & Family Services

*All donations, monetary & in-kind, are tax-deductible.

_____ Please check here if you do NOT want your donation publicly acknowledged.

Donations can be made online through
JustGive.org by visiting our website:

www.CrayYouth.org/donate

(credit card fees and processing charges are
deducted from gift online)

What's in your will is a testimony of what is important to you. When thinking about giving, an ultimate gift is one that will last. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor when considering your estate planning.